



SENTINEL



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African-American History Month celebrated



File photo

A formation of Black troops stand at attention prior to World War II. Blacks have contributed much to the success of the United States over its short history. In honor of African-American History Month, the economic impact of African-Americans was celebrated by the Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem communities Feb. 5 at The Commons at Fort McPherson. For the story and more photos, see pages 8 and 9.

Budget woes mean changes to many installation services

Commander's Corner

Col. Deborah B. Grays
Garrison Commander
Fort McPherson & Fort Gillem



As many of you are painfully aware, our garrison budget has been drastically cut. You may have noticed the trash in your office isn't being taken out as often as it had been, or that supply, travel and training funds have been curtailed. You may be wondering how dire the budget situation is and what's being done about it.

For months, we've been looking at our resources and trying to determine, based on the expected budget shortfalls, the best way to continue to provide the services essential to our customers' needs while trimming our expenses.

Finding the means to stay within our funding limits requires time, commitment and an organized effort to ensure a balanced outcome. And the funding levels are fluid, therefore we find ourselves re-evaluating our efforts to match new guidance as we receive it. Yet forefront in our minds, always, is our customers.

Many of our services will remain relatively untouched. For example:

- Our priority is to fund Soldier and Family readiness. No services that impact life, health and safety of customers will be affected to the point of unduly affecting those services.

- Installation security measures will remain intact, although employees may notice longer lines entering the posts or waiting for ID cards to be issued.

- Army Family Covenant (AFC) projects will remain a priority. While you may see some changes in the operating hours or the service levels in AFC projects, the commitment to make the covenant a

continued reality remains.

- Training and deployment support will not change, and youth services and child development programs will remain basically unchanged.

- Programs mandated by law, such as environmental programs, will continue to be funded.

Other services most likely will be affected. For example, you may have already noticed a change in your custodial service. Other areas potentially being reduced include grounds maintenance, continuing education and some facilities maintenance.

The budget issue isn't local — it's being worked at "Big Army" as well as the Installation Management Command, the Installation Management Command-Southeast (IMCOM-SE) and in the garrisons.

Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr. announced Feb. 5 that the Army is taking steps to increase funding by \$500 million for Base Operating Support in fiscal year 2010.

"We will continue to look for efficiencies and best practices, but the bottom line is we will not short-change our Soldiers and their Families," said McHugh.

Garrisons will receive a percentage of the increase. The specific amount has not been determined; however, the increase will not cover projected funding shortages and garrisons will continue to take cost-saving measures that will affect some services.

There are no actions currently planned in IMCOM-SE that would affect Civilian pay or result

in any permanent employees losing their jobs by furlough or reduction in force actions, although those actions may present themselves in the future.

Contracts will be funded for as long as possible; however, some may be modified to change the scope of work to a lesser level based on available funding.

We're not just looking at where to cut money, we're also looking at how we can provide the services we do better and more efficiently, hoping to reduce the impact our changes will have on our customers.

In that regard, I ask each of you to look at the processes you use to accomplish your job, and to see if those tasks can be performed as effectively with less.

While the budget crunch is painful for all the garrisons in the Army, we may feel it more acutely than other posts in that we're working budget issues simultaneously with closure issues. On the other hand, that may have given us a head start on facing these services issues — we had already been making plans to reduce many of our services as we grow closer to closure. The budget constraints just mean we'll be reducing some of those services earlier than we had planned.

The bottom line is to expect changes. Some are already evident, others are still to come. Some will be painful, others few will notice. I'll do my best to ensure the changes we make are thoroughly considered for customer impact, are fair and are made with mission in mind. Through them all, I'll do my best to ensure you remain informed of the changes to our services as they arise.



Garrison Commander

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Georgia National Guard unit departs for Iraq

Kevin Stabinsky
Sentinel assistant editor

Ninety Georgia Army National Guard (Georgia ANG) Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (110 CSSB), were honored with a sendoff ceremony at the Neal Fitness Center on Fort Gillem Monday in recognition of their scheduled deployment to Iraq in March.

Friends, Family members and fellow troops were all on hand to give their regards to the departing Soldiers.

Brig. Gen. Maria Britt, commander, Georgia ANG, told the deploying Soldiers she was proud of them for standing up for their country and encouraged them to protect America's values and live their own, even if it means taking the harder right over the easier wrong. She also told them to be proud in the knowledge that they are not only living history, but shaping it as well.

History is being made by being part of retrograde actions in Iraq, said Command Sgt. Maj. James Nelson, Georgia ANG command sergeant major and senior enlisted leader for the Georgia ANG. Retrograde actions, which include the redeployment of Soldiers and equipment back to America, are vital to the national security of the country, he added.

"There's a lot of logistics that are required," Nelson said of the retrograde mission of the 110 CSSB, pointing out missions such as accounting for equipment, repairing equipment and sending it



Photos by Kevin Stabinsky

Ninety Georgia Army National Guard (Georgia ANG) Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (110 CSSB), gathered in the Neal Fitness Center on Fort Gillem Monday for a departure ceremony. Following the ceremony, the unit left for Fort Bliss, Texas, where they will stay until March, when they are scheduled to deploy to Iraq.

back was "not an easy task."

Although difficult, these are necessary tasks, as they allows units to go back to America knowing what needs to be done to restore their capabilities and to allow them to properly prepare for future deployments, Nelson said.

The 110 CSSB's deployment is also historic, as it will most likely be the last deployment of a Georgia ANG unit to Iraq, Nelson said. He said most units on tap for future deployments will be sent to Afghanistan, where they will continue to support overseas contingency operations.

As for the 110th's roles in the retrograde action, Maj. Roger Dilliard, 110 CSSB support operations officer, said the group will be working under the 36th Sustainment Brigade and the mission will begin sometime in the spring, following the unit's monthlong tenure at Fort Bliss, Texas. The unit transferred to Fort Bliss for final preparations immediately after the ceremony.

Although Soldiers and Family members were saddened by the

separation, both were left with comfort by Britt, who assured Soldiers their Families would be taken care of in their absence and told Families that if they need anything, the Georgia ANG is willing to help.

"Families need not suffer in silence or alone," Britt said. "This, too, shall pass."

The end should come sometime in early 2011, said Col. Thomas Blackstock Jr., commander, 78th Troop Command, Georgia ANG.

"We look forward to the day when we welcome you home," Blackstock said.

For another photo, see page 16.



Friends, Family and fellow Soldiers of the 110 CSSB cheer their comrades off on their deployment to Iraq.



A Family member holds up a sign in support of her Soldier and the 110 CSSB.

McChrystal notes progress in Afghanistan

Fred W. Baker III
American Forces Press Service

Although he stopped short of saying the worst is over for troops as they prepare to surge into some of the toughest Taliban-held areas, the top NATO and U.S. commander in Afghanistan said Feb. 4 conditions no longer are deteriorating.

"I am not prepared to say that we have turned the corner. I am saying that the situation is serious, but I think we have made significant progress in setting conditions in 2009 and we'll make real progress in 2010," said Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, commander of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and U.S. Forces Afghanistan.

The general spoke in an interview with reporters who accompanied Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates to Istanbul for a meeting of the alliance's defense ministers to determine how many more additional resources, if any, they will contribute to the fight in Afghanistan.

Last summer, McChrystal delivered a much harsher description of the situation on the ground to the DoD and the White House, saying conditions were deteriorating, Taliban influence was growing and the confidence of the people of Afghanistan in U.S. efforts there was waning.

President Barack Obama directed a revamped strategy for Afghanistan that called for 30,000 more U.S. troops to deploy to Afghanistan by this summer.

McChrystal called 2010 an important year, as critically needed troops flow into the country as fast as facilities and bases can be built for them. U.S. forces will number about 100,000 by the time all of them arrive this summer. NATO has offered an additional 9,000 forces, but that still leaves ISAF about 4,000 short of the mentors and trainers it needs, officials said.

Sixty-four mentoring teams are operating now in all five regions of Afghanistan. Another 80 are expected in the next few months, but 20 more

are needed as the Afghan security forces grow this year.

McChrystal's prediction of continued progress in Afghanistan comes as coalition and Afghan forces prepare for one of their largest combined operations to remove insurgents from areas of central Helmand Province not already cleared by ISAF troops. It is not typical of military commanders to announce operations in advance, but the general said they are trying to send a message.

"We're trying to signal to the Afghan people that we are expanding security where they live. We are trying also to signal to the insurgents that it's about to change," McChrystal said.

The general said he also wants to give those Taliban members and other insurgents who would rather not fight a chance to consider their options.

"If they want to fight, then obviously that will have to be an outcome, but if they don't want to fight, that's fine too," he said. "We're not interested in how many Taliban we kill. We'd much rather have them see the inevitability that things are changing and just accept that."

The general said he considers this operation a next step as NATO forces continue to work to develop the size and capacity of the Afghan national security forces.

Over the past few months, McChrystal said ISAF has made internal command changes and has begun partnering more closely with the Afghan government from the ministries down to the local level.

He said progress has taken place as the government now works to direct the planning efforts to provide security.

Recruiting is up for the Afghan forces, McChrystal said. More than

11,000 joined in December and January. McChrystal acknowledged attrition is still higher than officials would like, but said it is dropping.

As of December, the Afghan army had more than 100,000 troops and officials want to grow its force to more than 171,000 by October. As of December, the Afghan police had just under 100,000 members and officials

want to expand their ranks to 134,000 officers by October.

Along with growing the size of the force, the Afghan government wants to develop the professional-

ism of the force. An Afghan military academy is ready to graduate a four-year class and the police academy just graduated a class after completing a three-year program, McChrystal said.

Before, only about one quarter of the Afghan National Police had any formal training. Now, the training will become standardized across the country. The Afghans are also standing up a command to manage police training.

Literacy is a challenge, McChrystal said, but that doesn't mean the recruits are not trainable.

"Being illiterate doesn't mean you're not smart," he said. "The Taliban's illiterate. It means you haven't had a chance to learn to read."

Literacy issues do, however, make it harder to train the recruits on the more modern equipment, the general acknowledged. However, he said, programs are being built within the force to help with literacy skills.

McChrystal described 2010 as "an exceptionally important year," as he observed the Afghan people are ready for the decades of war to come to an end. The general predicted significant growth of the Afghan national security forces as the summer 2011 deadline looms when U.S. troops are slated to start their withdrawal.

How many and how fast U.S. troops depart Afghanistan, McChrystal said, will depend on how much progress has been made between now and then.

"I'm not prepared to say we are winning. I'm prepared to say we are very much engaged and I am confident we are going to see serious progress this year," he said.

The progress has come at a price, McChrystal acknowledged.

"We have paid for progress we've made," the general said. "We've paid for it individual by individual."

"I'm not prepared to say we are winning. I'm prepared to say we are very much engaged and I am confident we are going to see serious progress this year."

Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal
commander
International Security Assistance Force, U.S. Forces
Afghanistan

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FY11 budget includes \$400 million for bonuses

C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

The Army revealed its fiscal year 2011 (FY11) budgets Feb. 1, including \$143 billion to fund training and sustainment of the total force and an additional \$102 billion to fund operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

During a budget briefing at the Pentagon, Lt. Gen. Edgar E. Stanton III, the Army's military deputy for budget, detailed the overall rationale behind items in the Army's portion of the DoD's FY11 budget requests that will go forward to President Barack Obama. That rationale included the Army's budget priorities.

"The Army leaders have focused on caring for our people — that's our Soldiers, our Families and our Civilians," Stanton said. "We focus on training and equipping Soldiers and units for the current fight and then we revitalize our people — the entire gamut of people, Soldiers and Civilians — for whatever the next development might be."

Stanton said priorities for the FY11 base budget also include continuing with both the transformation and the modernization of the Army.

The Army presented three budgets: a \$143 billion base budget, which supports the Army's mission to train and equip Soldiers; a \$102 billion overseas contingency operations budget, meant to sustain and support ongoing operations; and a \$20 billion supplemental budget, meant to augment last year's budget.

The FY11 budget includes some \$59 billion toward military personnel — 41 percent of the total base budget request. That request includes a 1.4-percent military pay raise, a 3.9-percent increase in housing allowances and a 3.4-percent increase in subsistence allowances. Also included were some \$400 million for supplemental re-enlistment bonuses.

The base budget for military personnel that will go forward to the president supports an active duty end strength of 547,400, an Army National Guard end strength of 358,200, and an Army Reserve end strength of 205,000. The overseas contingency operations budget also funds a temporary end strength increase of 22,000 Soldiers.

For Army operations and maintenance, the FY11 base budget includes \$43.9 billion. That includes recruiting and training the all-volunteer force and funding programs such as the Army Family Covenant and Comprehensive Soldier Fitness. The budget also funds increases in training programs, combat training centers and the depot maintenance program.

The FY11 budget includes funding for procure-



Photo by C. Todd Lopez

During a budget briefing at the Pentagon Feb. 1, Lt. Gen. Edgar E. Stanton III, the Army's military deputy for budget, and Kathleen S. Miller, deputy director and senior advisor for Army budget, detailed the overall rationale behind items in the Army's portion of the DoD's Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11) budget requests that will go forward to President Barack Obama. The Army FY11 budget includes \$143 billion to fund training and sustainment of the total force and an additional \$102 billion to fund operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

ment and modernization — more than \$21 billion — for purchase of aircraft, missiles, ammunition, tracked vehicles and weapon systems.

In FY11, for instance, the budget includes \$1.3 billion for 48 UH-60M Black Hawk utility helicopters and 24 HH-60M Black Hawk medical helicopters. The budget also provides \$1.1 billion for transition of CH-47 Chinooks from "D" models to "F" models.

The Army also plans to add to its unmanned-aerial-systems fleet, including about \$459 million for the addition of approximately 26 MQ-1 Sky Warrior Extended Range Multi-Purpose Unmanned Aerial Systems.

In FY11, the Army will cease to purchase new Humvee vehicles, as the service has met its purchase goals for the vehicle.

"We have reached the Army acquisition objective for Humvees — we're there sooner than we expected for two reasons," Stanton said. "One is we have

fewer losses and washouts in Iraq. Also, with the Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle, all-terrain vehicle and other MRAP variants that have been procured and made available to the Army, we have less uses for the Humvee. We envision the Humvee to be an enduring part of the Army fleet."

Stanton said the Humvee production line will remain open for others to purchase.

The \$20-billion supplemental request for FY10 that was forwarded to the president includes \$1.7 billion for military personnel and supports two new Army combat aviation brigades (CAB).

Stanton said the exact way those CABs will get aircraft is still being determined.

"There is procurement of aircraft here — how we will end up distributing the aircraft between the twelfth CAB and the thirteenth CAB and other Army competing requirements for aircraft support has yet to be determined," Stanton said.

PBS documentary explores black military service

C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

To commemorate African-American History Month and honor blacks who served, "For Love of Liberty: The Story of America's Black Patriots" will air throughout February on Public Broadcasting System stations across the country.

The two-part documentary, produced with the Army's cooperation, tells the untold story of blacks' service in the military throughout the nation's history to win and protect freedoms they themselves often didn't enjoy.

Hosted by Halle Berry, narrated by Avery Brooks and introduced by former Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell, the four-hour documentary begins at the dawn of U.S. history to tell the story of blacks who risked their lives to win and protect American freedom while striving to acquire it themselves.

In addition to film footage and photos, 'For Love of Liberty' uses letters, diaries, speeches, journalistic accounts, historical text and military records to document the accomplishments of blacks who served in the military since the republic's earliest days. Their personal stories give a moving account of service and sacrifice from throughout the Revolutionary War — whose first casualty, Crispus Attucks, was a black man — to today's war against global terrorism.

"It is a wonderful story of a group of Americans who never lost their love of this country (and) never lost their faith in it or what the founding fathers had promised them," said Powell. "And that's why this story is simply called, 'For Love of Liberty.'"

Praised by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, "For Love of Liberty" is much more than a collection of historical facts and figures. It shares the compelling personal stories of men and women who make up the fabric of an inspiring narrative. Their first-hand accounts are told by a variety of prominent entertainers and public figures.

Those who lent their voices include: Morgan Freeman, Mel Gibson, Susan Sarandon, Louis Gossett Jr., Ossie Davis, Robert Duvall, Danny

Glover, Jeffrey Wright, Sam Elliot and Delroy Lindo. Sound clips are included from Walter Cronkite, Isaac Hayes, John Goodman, Jesse L. Martin, Peter Coyote, Ice-T, James Garner, Robert Townsend, Alan Rickman and Roscoe Lee Browne.

Other participants include Ruby Dee, John Amos, Eriq La Salle, Angela Bassett, Chris Cooper, Alfre Woodard, Cliff Robertson, Blair Underwood, Charles Dutton, Kris Kristofferson, Michael Clarke Duncan, Donald Sutherland and Isaiah Washington.

The words they deliver convey an epic saga of perseverance and triumph, which the film brings to life through rare photographs, archival materials, re-

enactments, personal memorabilia, historical paintings and posters. Original footage of hundreds of monuments, battlefields, memorials and other historic sites in more than 20 states and in Europe are also included in the documentary.

"Our goal is to raise public consciousness about this extraordinary and little-known aspect of our nation's history, and I'm deeply indebted to all those who've supported our commitment to get this

story told," said Frank Martin, the film's director. "Throughout the film, we look at why, despite rampant injustice, heroic black men and women fought so valiantly for freedoms they themselves did not enjoy. The theme that echoes across the centuries — the price of liberty — is one that is relevant to all Americans."

Actor Louis Gossett Jr., one of the film's executive producers, said, "'For Love of Liberty' has the power to forever change perceptions about the vital role African-Americans have played during the entire course of U.S. military history. I'm honored to be part of this important and ground-breaking film, and thankful to all my fellow actors who have helped to bring this story to life."

In addition to giving overdue recognition and honor to an unheralded aspect of America's past, "For Love of Liberty" also includes blacks who are shaping the future.

Gen. William E. Ward, the first and current commander of U.S. Africa Command, will appear in an Army Recruiting Command video that will include

a half-hour segment of the film. Ward's interview segment was recorded by Soldiers Radio and Television (SRTV) staff in the SRTV studio.

Ward said young men and women will see how becoming a Soldier builds skills that enable success throughout life.

"The life skills, the discipline, character and responsibility you achieve while being a Soldier is transferable and will serve you in good stead in whatever field you choose," Ward said.



Photo courtesy of Office of War Information

In a photo taken in August 1944, pilots of a P-51 Mustang Group of the 15th Army Air Force in Italy take a break during in the shadow of one of the Mustangs they flew.

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General inspires others, receives Trumpet Award

Paul D. Prince

U.S. Army Forces Command

Gen. William E. Ward, commander, U.S. Africa Command, became a Trumpet Award recipient Jan. 30 during the 18th Annual Trumpet Awards in Marietta for his ability to inspire others through his extensive military career.

"It is a pretty cool award," Ward told reporters.

According to event officials, men and women who have achieved success through consistency and longevity in their profession and inspire others through their achievements are eligible for consideration for this award.

Ward said that those who have been — and are — inspired by his life's work are simply inspired by the work of a hard-working Soldier, which makes being a role model easier.

"I am a Soldier first, and as a Soldier, I've always tried to do what I'd been asked to do and do it the very best I can," he said. "I take the obligation (of being a role model) very freely, but I also take it knowing that maybe if I can be an inspiration to others, then that's OK with me."

"If individuals do the things they are asked to do well — such that teammates are better off because of what has been done — then all will benefit from that," Ward added. "In the military, (individuals) are given the opportunity to make a difference because of what he or she does and how he or she does it, not necessarily because of what (he or she) looks like."

Ward's inspiration toward a military career came from his father, who is deceased and who was a proud World War II veteran. Through military service, Ward said, his father received the same opportunities as many servicemembers today.

"Today's situation is the same," he said.

The military is a launch pad for individuals to use their service experience to acquire character, discipline and professionalism — skills that will serve them well in both military and civilian career fields, Ward added.

Ward is the fifth black Soldier to be promoted to four-star general in U.S. Army history.

As a black man and a senior Army leader, Ward sees his accomplishments and the accomplishments of other military leaders as signs that the Army is a well-rounded institution.

"It represents that our Army is indeed a diverse organization. It is the strength of that diversity from which we all benefit," Ward said. "As we take advantage of all the diversity that exists and the contributions each member can make, we as a whole are better — a better institution, a better Army."



Photos by Paul D. Prince
Above: Gen. William E. Ward, commander, U.S. Africa Command, and his wife, Joyce, speak with media on the red carpet before entering the 18th Annual Trumpet Award event in Marietta Jan. 30.

Below: Ward displays his Trumpet Award.



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Installations celebrate African-American History Month

Kevin Stabinsky
Sentinel assistant editor

On Feb. 5, members of Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem gathered at The Commons at Fort McPherson to celebrate African-American History Month and to look at the

impact the black culture has had in America at a luncheon entitled “The History of Black Economic Empowerment.” Like much of the news today, the focus of the luncheon was on the economy, specifically on how blacks have helped grow and

strengthen the American economy.

These contributions were obvious upon entering the club, where attendees viewed displays on the contributions of black entrepreneurs to American society, such as Famous Amos cookies (created by Wally Amos) and various peanut products by George Washington Carver.

Once seated, attendees learned more about various black individuals who played a major role in America’s prosperity, as each table was dedicated to an individual. They were also introduced to some of the history of how African-American History Month came to exist, courtesy of the master of ceremonies, Sgt. 1st Class Jamaine Chambers.

“Initially, Black History Month was referred to as Negro History Week in 1926 by Dr. Carter Woodson (and) celebrated the second week of February in honor of the birthdays of former president Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist and former slave Frederick Douglas,” said Chambers, central tasking NCO, headquarters, First Army. “During our nation’s bicentennial, in 1976, it was expanded to a full month by the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History.”

Chambers took time to speak of Lt. Col. Allen Allensworth, a notable black man with military ties who helped add to black economic power.

Allensworth, born in slavery, educated himself illegally and later joined the Army,

where he became the first black chaplain, Chambers said. After retiring in 1906 as the highest ranking black commissioned officer at the time, he created a self-sufficient, all-black community with the establishment of Allensworth, Calif., in 1908. It consisted of 900 acres worth more than \$112,000 and was the only California community to be founded, financed and governed by blacks.

Just as Allensworth’s dreams were helped to be realized by his time in the Army, the luncheon’s guest speaker, Gregory Price, chairman of the economics department at Morehouse College, used his speech to highlight how the U.S. armed forces has been a model for and cause of black empowerment in the U.S.

“While the path to black progress and empowerment has been caused and catalyzed by a wide variety of social, economic, political and moral phenomena, our U.S. armed forces has played a significant role in black freedom and empowerment,” he said. “The first and most prominent instance of our armed forces empowering black Americans was the Civil War.”

Even before the Union Army emerged victorious and freed the slaves, the U.S. armed forces were working to help empower blacks. Price spoke of how Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman issued field order 15, which confiscated 400,000 acres of land and divided it into 40-acre parcels for freed slaves during reconstruction efforts in the South.

Reconstruction was another



Members of the Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem community bow their head in prayer for unity Feb. 5 while celebrating African American Heritage Month at The Commons at Fort McPherson. The community celebrated the economic impact of African Americans in the United States over lunch.

major role in which the U.S. armed forces helped empower the newly freed black Americans, said Price. By enforcing reconstruction, the nominal freedom won as a result of the war began to become more concrete.

During reconstruction, in 1866 and 1869, the armed forces engineered laws to guarantee existence of four black Regular Army regiments that helped provide legal precedence of the notion of equality of black Americans relative to white Americans, Price said. The armed forces ended the practice of limited recruitment during the Spanish-American War in 1898, allowing more blacks to serve their country.

Price took more time to show how the armed forces led the way for black empow-

erment and equality. He spoke of how, in 1948, President Harry Truman’s executive order 9981 ordered the integration of the armed forces, preceding any civilian equivalent by at least 17 years.

On three different instances, Price spoke of how the Army helped enforce laws to ensure equality. On Sept. 24, 1957, President Dwight Eisenhower ordered the 101st Airborne Division to Little Rock, Ark., to enforce the rights of blacks to attend the previously all-white Little Rock Central High School.

In September 1962, President John F. Kennedy federalized the Mississippi National Guard and dispatched it to enforce the right of James Meredith, a black man, to attend the previously

all-white University of Mississippi.

On June 11, 1963, Kennedy also federalized the Alabama National Guard and dispatched it to enforce the rights of Vivian Malone and James Hood to attend the previously all-white University of Alabama.

“There is evidence that the U.S. armed forces continues to be a model for and cause of black empowerment in recent and contemporary times,” Price said. “One only need itemize the number of black Americans who have held the rank of general and or admiral in the U.S. armed forces, and compare that to the number of private corporations that have had black Americans as chief executive officer (CEO), or near CEO in rank as leaders.”

National African-American History Month presidential proclamation

In the centuries since African-Americans first arrived on our shores, they have known the bitterness of slavery and oppression, the hope of progress and the triumph of the American Dream. African-American history is an essential thread of the American narrative that traces our nation’s enduring struggle to perfect itself. Each February, we recognize African-American History Month as a moment to reflect upon how far we have come as a nation and what challenges remain. This year’s theme, “The History of Black Economic Empowerment,” calls upon us to honor the African-Americans who overcame injustice and inequality to achieve financial independence and the security of self empowerment that comes with it.

Nearly 100 years after the Civil War, African-Americans still faced daunting challenges and indignities. Widespread racial prejudice inhibited their opportunities and institutional discrimination such as black codes and Jim Crow laws denied them full citizenship rights. Despite these seemingly impossible barriers, pioneering African-Americans blazed trails for themselves and their children. They became skilled workers and professionals. They purchased land and a new generation of black entrepreneurs founded banks, educational institutions, newspapers, hospitals and businesses of all kinds.

This month, we recognize the courage and tenacity of so many hard-working Americans whose legacies are woven into the fabric of our nation. We are heirs to their extraordinary progress. Racial prejudice is no longer the steepest barrier to opportunity for most African Americans, yet substantial obstacles remain in the remnants of past discrimination. Structural inequalities — from disparities in education and health care to the vicious cycle of poverty — still pose enormous hurdles for black communities across America.

Overcoming today’s challenges will require the same dedication and sense of urgency that enabled past generations of African-Americans to rise above the injustices of their time. That is why my administration is laying a new foundation for long-term economic growth that helps more than just a privileged few. We are working hard to give small businesses much-needed credit, to slash tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas and to give those same breaks to companies that create jobs here at home. We are also reinvesting in our schools and making college more affordable, because a world class education is our country’s best roadmap to prosperity.

These initiatives will expand opportunities for African-Americans and for all Americans, but parents and community leaders must also be partners in this effort. We must push our children to reach for the full measure of their potential, just as the innovators who succeeded in previous generations pushed their children to achieve something greater. In the volumes of black history, much remains unwritten. Let us add our own chapter, full of progress and ambition, so that our children’s children will know that we, too, did our part to erase an unjust past and build a brighter future.

Now therefore, I, Barack Obama, president of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2010 as National African-American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

In witness whereof, I have here unto set my hand this first day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

President Barack Obama



Charles Moss, visual information specialist and artist, Fort McPherson Training and Support Center, created 15 paintings, such as the one above, for the luncheon. Moss said he was inspired by his maternal grandfather, who was born a slave in 1855 on the Ben Lyon plantation, and hopes his paintings inspire a sense of history and pride in those who view them.

Installations celebrate African-American

Kevin Stabinsky
Sentinel assistant editor

On Feb. 5, members of Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem gathered at The Commons at Fort McPherson to celebrate African-American History Month and to look at the

impact the black culture has had in America at a luncheon entitled "The History of Black Economic Empowerment."

Like much of the news today, the focus of the luncheon was on the economy, specifically on how blacks have helped grow and

strengthen the American economy.

These contributions were obvious upon entering the club, where attendees viewed displays on the contributions of black entrepreneurs to American society, such as Famous Amos cookies (created by Wally Amos) and various peanut products by George Washington Carver.

Once seated, attendees learned more about various black individuals who played a major role in America's prosperity, as each table was dedicated to an individual. They were also introduced to some of the history of how African-American History Month came to exist, courtesy of the master of ceremonies, Sgt. 1st Class Jamaime Chambers.

"Initially, Black History Month was referred to as Negro History Week in 1926 by Dr. Carter Woodson (and) celebrated the second week of February in honor of the birthdays of former president Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist and former slave Frederick Douglass," said Chambers, central tasking NCO, headquarters, First Army. "During our nation's bicentennial, in 1976, it was expanded to a full month by the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History."

Chambers took time to speak of Lt. Col. Allen Allensworth, a notable black man with military ties who helped add to black economic power.

Allensworth, born in slavery, educated himself illegally and later joined the Army,

where he became the first black chaplain, Chambers said. After retiring in 1906 as the highest ranking black commissioned officer at the time, he created a self-sufficient, all-black community with the establishment of Allensworth, Calif., in 1908. It consisted of 900 acres worth more than \$112,000 and was the only California community to be founded, financed and governed by blacks.

Just as Allensworth's dreams were helped to be realized by his time in the Army, the luncheon's guest speaker, Gregory Price, chairman of the economics department at Morehouse College, used his speech to highlight how the U.S. armed forces has been a model for and cause of black empowerment in the U.S.

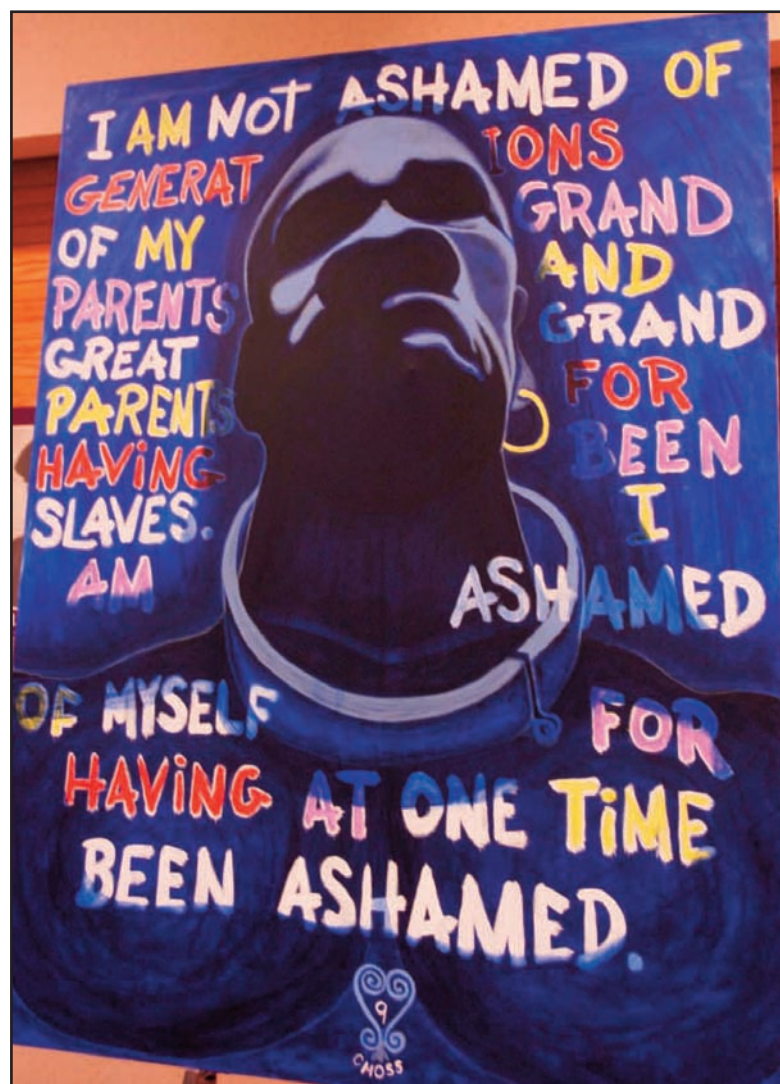
"While the path to black progress and empowerment has been caused and catalyzed by a wide variety of social, economic, political and moral phenomena, our U.S. armed forces has played a significant role in black freedom and empowerment," he said. "The first and most prominent instance of our armed forces empowering black Americans was the Civil War."

Even before the Union Army emerged victorious and freed the slaves, the U.S. armed forces were working to help empower blacks. Price spoke of how Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman issued field order 15, which confiscated 400,000 acres of land and divided it into 40-acre parcels for freed slaves during reconstruction efforts in the South.

Reconstruction was another



Members of the Fort McPherson Feb. 5 while celebrating African-American History Month. The community celebrated the United States over lunch.



Photos by Kevin Stabinsky

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major role in which the U.S. armed forces helped empower the newly freed black Americans, said Price. By enforcing reconstruction, the nominal freedom won as a result of the war began to become more concrete.

During reconstruction, in 1866 and 1869, the armed forces engineered laws to guarantee existence of four black Regular Army regiments that helped provide legal precedence of the notion of equality of black Americans relative to white Americans, Price said. The armed forces ended the practice of limited recruitment during the Spanish-American War in 1898, allowing more blacks to serve their country.

Price took more time to show how the armed forces led the way for black empow-

History Month



and Fort Gillem community bow their head in prayer for unity
can American Heritage Month at The Commons at Fort
celebrated the economic impact of African Americans in the

erment and equality. He spoke of how, in 1948, President Harry Truman's executive order 981 ordered the integration of the armed forces, preceding any civilian equivalent by at least 17 years.

On three different instances, Price spoke of how the Army helped enforce laws to ensure equality. On Sept. 24, 1957, President Dwight Eisenhower ordered the 101st Airborne Division to Little Rock, Ark., to enforce the rights of blacks to attend the previously all-white Little Rock Central High School.

In September 1962, President John F. Kennedy federalized the Mississippi National Guard and dispatched it to enforce the right of James Meredith, a black man, to attend the previously

all-white University of Mississippi.

On June 11, 1963, Kennedy also federalized the Alabama National Guard and dispatched it to enforce the rights of Vivian Malone and James Hood to attend the previously all-white University of Alabama.

"There is evidence that the U.S. armed forces continues to be a model for and cause of black empowerment in recent and contemporary times," Price said. "One only need itemize the number of black Americans who have held the rank of general and or admiral in the U.S. armed forces, and compare that to the number of private corporations that have had black Americans as chief executive officer (CEO), or near CEO in rank as leaders."

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President Barack Obama



Panel set to explore ending 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

John J. Kruzel

American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates established a DoD panel Feb. 2 to prepare the military for the potential elimination of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that bans openly gay people from serving in the armed forces.

The working group is tasked to assess the relevant issues within a year in an effort to prime the department to adapt to any changes Congress makes to the 17-year-old law underpinning the controversial personnel policy — a legislative move supported by Gates, President Barack Obama and the nation's top military officer.

"I fully support the president's decision," Gates told the Senate Armed Services Committee. "The question before us is not whether the military prepares to make this change, but how we best prepare for it."

Noting the political climate, Gates said a guiding principle of the department's effort will be to minimize disruption and polarization.

The working group, to be headed by Jeh Johnson, the Pentagon's top lawyer, and Gen. Carter Ham,

the commander of U.S. Army Europe, will immediately begin reviewing the issues associated with implementing a repeal to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

"The mandate of this working group is to thoroughly, objectively and methodically examine all aspects of this question, and produce its finding and recommendations in the form of an implementation plan by the end of this calendar year," Gates said.

Appearing alongside Gates was Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who echoed the secretary's endorsement of repealing the policy.

"Speaking for myself and myself only, it is my personal belief that allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly would be the right thing to do," Mullen said. "No matter how I look at this issue, I cannot escape being troubled by the fact that we have in place a policy which forces young men and women to lie about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens."

The chairman said "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is an issue that strikes at the integrity of the U.S. armed forces as an institution and that of individual servicemembers, who Mullen believes would accommodate a change to the policy, praising troops' adapt-

ability. He acknowledged the likelihood that repealing the law would lead to a disruption in the forces.

"We would all like to have a better handle on these types of concerns and this is what our review will offer," Mullen told the Congressional panel.

The hearing on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" comes after Obama announced in his State of the Union address his desire to end the policy.

"This year, I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are," Obama said. "It's the right thing to do."

As the group undertakes the year-long review and assessment, Gates said the department also will take measures to implement the current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy more fairly.

"The DoD understands that this is a very difficult, and in the minds of some, controversial policy question," Gates told lawmakers. "I am determined that we in the department carry out this process professionally, thoroughly, dispassionately and in a manner that is responsive to the direction of the president and to the needs of the Congress as you debate and consider this matter."

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**RG Williams
Construction
69945
2X4
Full**

**Summit Reality and
Development
69745
6X10.25
B&W**

Community Briefs

Positive Recruitment

The Army Community Service (ACS) staff will host a positive recruitment event Wednesday from 9 until 11 a.m. at Bldg. 62 on Fort McPherson.

The following companies will be in attendance: Cobb County Police Department, ARK's Staffing, Wackenhut Security and Tranquility Salon and Spa.

Registration is required for the event. The recruitment is open to all servicemembers, Civilian employees, ID card-holding Family members, military retirees and contractors.

For more information, call the ACS staff at 464-3266 or 464-2197.

Lenten series

The U.S. Army Garrison Chaplain Office staff will sponsor "The Power of the Cross" Lenten series for women each Thursday during Lent. Each series will begin with refreshments and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 11 a.m.

Residents from Staff Row at Fort McPherson will host the series and Army chaplains will be featured guest speakers for each day of the series.

Child overwatch will be provided at the Chapel Center in Bldg. 51 on Fort McPherson.

For more information, call Donna Craven, director of religious education, at 464-2012.

H1N1 vaccinations

Effective immediately, the Lawrence Joel U.S. Army Health Clinic (LJAHC) staff will issue H1N1 Nasal Mist intranasal vaccinations and injections to active duty servicemembers and their Family members ages 6 months and older who are enrolled at the LJAHC.

The vaccine will be administered at the Immunization Clinic Monday through Friday from 7:30 until 11:30 a.m. and from 1 until 3:30 p.m. (with the exception of federal and training holidays). On the first Wednesday of every month, the clinic will be open from 7:30 until 11:30 a.m.

Additionally, the LJAHC staff will issue H1N1 vaccinations and injections to DA Civilians and all beneficiaries not enrolled to LJAHC, including retirees, at the LJAHC Force Readiness Clinic every Tuesday, Wednesday (excluding the first Wednesday of each month) and Thursday from 1 until 3:30 p.m.

Beneficiaries must present a valid DoD identification card that indicates "medical yes" to receive the immunization.

For children 6 months through 9 years of age, a second vaccination is required 30 days after receiving the initial H1N1 vaccination.

To receive the vaccine, the beneficiary must not have received any type of live virus vaccine (including the Seasonal Flu Intranasal Mist (FluMist)) within the past 30 days.

For more information, call 464-0235.

Child Development Center openings

The U.S. Army Garrison Child Development Center (CDC) has openings for pretoddlers, toddlers and preschool children from 1 through 4 years of age.

The CDC is located in Bldg. 514 on Fort McPherson.

For more information, call Zonia Bush, assistant director, at 464-3945 or 464-2759.

Chaplain contract

The U.S. Army Garrison Chaplain Office has a contract position for a contemporary worship leader at the Fort McPherson Post Chapel open for bid.

The contractor must be able to lead congregational worship and other volunteer musicians. The deadline to apply is Monday.

To apply or for more information, call Chap. (Capt.) Brad Godding, Fort McPherson chaplain resource manager, at 464-2005.

BRAC mobile unit

The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) mobile unit trailer will be at the resale lot behind the Fort Gillem Shoppette from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Feb. 23 and March 9 and 23; and at the lot behind the Fort McPherson Post Theater from noon until

4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24 and March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31.

The trailer will offer career exploration and assessment, individual training plans, Georgia work ready certification, job search preparation, labor market information and help in creating a résumé.

For more information, call 464-3338.

Religious Services

Fort McPherson

9:19 a.m. ChapelNext
Post Chapel, Bldg. 42

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
Post Chapel Center, Bldg. 51

11 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
Post Chapel, Bldg. 42

9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass
Cantonment Chapel, Bldg. 240

Daily Mass
Monday through Friday at noon

11 a.m. Thursday – Women's Bible Study
Post Chapel Center, Bldg. 51

6:30 p.m. Wednesday – Awana Club Meeting
Bldg. 51

Fort Gillem

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
Bldg. 734

6:30 p.m. Wednesday – Bible Study
Bldg. 734

11 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
Post Chapel, Bldg. 734

Muslim Representative
Chap. (Maj) Dawud Agbere
464-4011

Jewish Representative
Jimmy Bradford
770-461-4298

For more information on chapel programs, call 464-2004.

Fort McPherson Post Theater movies

Tonight: Surrogates (PG-13)

Feb. 19: Where the Wild Things Are (PG)

**Shows start at 7 p.m.
Bring the family and your
own refreshments.**



Leisure Activities

Ticket sales offered at the Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem Leisure Activities Center Ticket Office are final and include all applicable charges imposed on the Installation Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fund (IMWRF) by the vendor. All sales are final.

To reserve tickets using Visa, MasterCard, American Express or the MWR card, call 464-4392 or 464-3677.

Counter sales are conducted in Bldg. 135 at Fort McPherson Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The ticket office opens at 11 a.m. the first workday each month.

Army Ten-Miler trials

The Army Ten-Miler race will be held Oct. 24 in Washington, D.C. Individuals wishing to compete on a Fort McPherson or Fort Gillem Ten-Miler team must take part in a 10-mile time trial March 11 or submit a documented 15-km or longer distance race time taken since October 2009 (for example, the Peachtree City Classic 15-km or the Atlanta Half Marathon).

The time trial will be held on Fort McPherson's Hedekin Field beginning at 6:30 a.m. It will consist of 10 miles (13.5 laps) around the parade field. Males should be able to run the course in 70 to 75 minutes and females in 80 to 85 minutes. The start location will be in front of Quarters 10 on Staff Row.

Interested runners should contact any of the following individuals and provide their name, rank, unit of assignment, duty telephone number and e-mail address:

- U.S. Army Forces Command, Lt. Col. John Ruibal, 464-5646 or john.ruibal@us.army.mil

- U.S. Army Reserve Command, Mike Dunn, 464-8516 or michael.dunn@us.army.mil

- Fort Gillem, Maj. Roger Glenn, at 404-469-4941 or e-mail roger.a.glenn@us.army.mil

- First Army, Capt. Nikki Blystone, at 404-469-7453 or e-mail nikki.n.blystone@us.army.mil

stone@us.army.mil

- Third Army/U.S. Army Central, Bob Dalton, at 464-2078 or e-mail robert.dalton@arcent.army.mil

Members of the race committee will select a team based on time qualifications.

Active duty, Army Reserve and Army National Guard personnel and DA Civilian employees and contractors are eligible to participate in the Ten-Miler. Civilian employees must participate at their own expense.

Alvin Ailey

Tickets are now available for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater tour at the Fox Theatre.

Tickets cost \$50 for performances Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. and Feb. 22 at 1 p.m.

For more information, visit www.alvinailey.org.

Soweto Gospel Choir

Tickets are now available for the Soweto Gospel Choir at the Fox Theatre.

Tickets cost \$39 for the performance Feb. 25 at 8 p.m.

For more information, visit www.foxtheatre.com.

South Pacific

Tickets are now available for the musical "South Pacific" at the Fox Theatre.

Tickets cost \$58 for the performances April 10 at 2 p.m. and April 11 at 1 p.m.

For more information, visit www.foxtheatre.com.

Madea's Big Happy Family

Tickets are now available for the stage play "Madea's Big Happy Family" at the Fox Theatre.

Tickets cost \$69 through \$84 for the performance April 15 at 8 p.m., \$69 for April 17 at 3 p.m. and \$69 through \$79 for the performance April 18 at 3 p.m.

For more information, visit

www.foxtheatre.com.

Atlanta Hawks tickets

Tickets are available for the Atlanta Hawks games played at Philips Arena.

Tickets for the Los Angeles game (March 31) and Cleveland game (April 14) cost \$87 for the 100-level seats, \$54 for the 200-level seats and \$32 for the 300-level seats.

Chick-Fil-A games include coupons

for \$39.25 for 200-level seats. All sales are final and include applicable services charges imposed by the vendor.

Contractual agreements do not permit refunds or exchanges once the transaction is completed.

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Parting shot: **Unit ready to complete mission**



Photo by Kevin Stabinsky

Command Sgt. Maj. James Nelson, Georgia Army National Guard command sergeant major and senior enlisted leader, talks with David Howell, Georgia DoD Public Affairs Office videographer, Monday after the departure ceremony at the Neal Fitness Center on Fort Gillem for the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. The unit is deploying to Iraq in March to help with retrograde operations. For the story and more photos, see page 3.